



This home is the birthplace of Doyle E. Carlton, Florida's governor during the Great Depression. Pioneers of the Florida cattle and citrus industries, the Carltons built this home as their family grew to ten children. It is an example of typical Florida vernacular architecture with a distinctive "dogtrot" hallway.

CARLTON HOUSE
1885 Wauchula, Florida



This building was originally a post office and general store. Today, Governors Inn houses a collection of oil portraits of Florida's governors from 1821 to the present.

GOVERNORS INN
1912 Lily, Florida

One of the last wooden caboose cars on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. Retired in the 1960's, this caboose was preserved and used as an examination office by Dr. James West of Lakeland.

1917

CABOOSE #0583

This depot and even moving the town several blocks closer to the tracks.



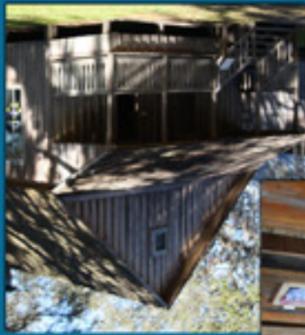
Originally the southernmost steamship port in central Florida, Okahumpka quickly adapted to the new and more efficient railroad by building this depot and even moving the town several blocks closer to the tracks.

OKAHUMPKA TRAIN DEPOT
1898 Okahumpka, Florida



This general store was built by the granddather of Florida governor Lawton Chiles. The Terry family purchased it in the 1920s and operated it continuously until it closed in 1988.

TERRY STORE
1891 Fort White, Florida



This typical one-room school house is constructed of long-lasting heart pine wood. It served the students of the Castalia community in Desoto County from 1912-1937.

SCHOOL HOUSE
1912 Castalia, Florida



wares and books.

This building was a general store and post office in the town of Ona, in Hardee County. Today it houses Cracker Country's store, where guests can find nostalgic gifts, candy, household

RAINEY STORE
c. 1880s Ona, Florida

common sight on farms.

Used to hold and dry corn and other crops, the corn crib was a

CORN CRIB
c. 1890 Bereah, Florida, Reconstructed 2010



Cracker Country is a living history museum located on the Florida State Fairgrounds. Named after the cracking whips of Florida's pioneer cowmen, the museum is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of rural life in Florida in the late 19th century.

Cracker Country was established in 1978 by Mildred W. and Doyle E. Carlton, Jr. Thirteen original structures built between 1870-1912 were relocated from around the state, restored and furnished to represent various aspects of home life, commerce and transportation as it was in many rural Florida communities just before the turn of the 20th century. The museum is set among majestic live oak trees on four acres of grounds and gardens.



Cracker Country is open every day during the annual Florida State Fair and throughout the spring and fall by reservation for educational programs and group tours.

Mildred W. and Doyle E. Carlton Jr. Cracker Country
Rural Florida Outdoor Living History Museum
Florida State Fairgrounds
P.O. Box 11766
Tampa, FL 33680
(813) 627.4225

www.crackercountry.org

MUSEUM MAP

MILDRED W. & DOYLE E. CARLTON JR
CRACKER COUNTRY



Originally used as a recreational cabin, this small building houses post office artifacts dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

POST OFFICE
1900s Green Swamp, Florida

This was the detached kitchen building of the childhood home of Florida Senator Henry Murphy.

PRINT SHOP
c. 1880s Desoto County, Florida



This small house, which was built for them by neighbors Daniel and Elizabeth Smith raised three sons in this

SMITH HOUSE
1894 Zephyrhills, Florida



Small public buildings like this one often served multiple purposes in a community. This was originally built to be a school. It became the Holy Ghost Church in 1946.

CHURCH
c. 1900 Gretna, Florida



PRESERVING FLORIDA'S RURAL HISTORY

Our buildings have been relocated from across the state.



Rainey Store before restoration, 1980s



- Church
- Terry Store
- Okahumpka Depot
- Smith House
- Post Office
- Rainey Store
- School House
- Carlton House
- Governors Inn
- Print Shop



Caboose in transit, 1983



- 1. Okahumpka Depot
- 2. Governors Inn
- 3. Candle Shop
- 4. Carlton House
- 5. Well
- 6. Kitchen Garden
- 7. Corn Crib
- 8. Farm Animals
- 9. Blacksmith Shop
- 10. General Store
- 11. Grist Mill
- 12. Outhouse
- 13. School House
- 14. Terry Store
- 15. Church
- 16. Cemetery
- 17. Planting Garden
- 18. The Gallery
- 19. Cow Camp
- 20. Smith House
- 21. Smoke House
- 22. Cane Mill & Syrup Kettle
- 23. Print Shop
- 24. Post Office
- 25. Center Stage
- 26. Information Booth

Accessible Restrooms



Restrooms



Wheel Chair Accessible



Water Fountain



KITCHEN GARDEN AND POULTRY PENS



A vegetable garden near the house was a necessity for pioneer families. This garden features vegetables, herbs and flowering plants that would have been available in 19th century Florida. Cotton Patch geese help keep the garden free of weeds, and Plymouth Rock hens provide eggs and fertilizer.

BLACKSMITH SHOP

The blacksmith, a metalworker who fashioned useful objects out of iron, was a very important tradesperson in most communities. This is a working reproduction of an early 20th century smithy.



COW CAMP

This area features demonstrations of Florida's 19th century cow hunters, who followed in the footsteps of the Spanish and Native Americans who began North America's cattle industry right here in Florida.



SMOKE HOUSE

1800s Sumter County, Florida

This building was used to preserve meats by slowly smoking them over a fire.



CANE MILL

Sugar cane has long been an important Florida crop. The segmented cane stalks were fed into the grinding cogs of this mill, which was powered by a horse, ox or mule, and crushed to release juice. The juice was then boiled into syrup in a large kettle.



CANDLE SHOP

By the late 19th century, people relied upon more modern lighting technologies like oil or kerosene lamps, but still purchased or made candles as part of their holiday traditions.

